

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT SERVICES DIGEST

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This Digest is used to transmit information pertaining to the four program components of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program: Curriculum; Individual Planning; Responsive Services; and System Support to professional school counselors, placement personnel, career and technical school counselors and administrators at all levels throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **Ideas Wanted!!!** Missouri Career Education invites you to submit strategies and tools that you use to assist students, parents, and communities become more engaged with career planning and educational preparation. The attachment may be used to submit a brief description to Missouri Center for Career Education for compilation in a toolkit that will be distributed this summer to districts and educators. The form is also available on the web at http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/guidance_digest.htm
2. **Handbook Available!!** The newly revised Graduation Handbook that is effective for the class of 2010 is now posted on the web. It can be found at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/msip/index.html>
3. **Mark Your Calendar!! Environmental Career Fair being planned** The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is sponsoring an Environmental Career Fair primarily targeted at students in High School although interested Middle school students are also welcome to attend. The purpose of the Fair is to allow attendees to explore careers in or about the environment, what qualifications they will need and give them the opportunity to check out university programs that provide the skills and knowledge they will need. It will be held in Jefferson City on Friday, April 20, 2007. In addition to the Fair, other Earth Day related activities will be offered. More information will be sent out as it becomes available. If you would like more information now, please contact Jim Lubbers at 800-361-4827. **Please pass this information to science and social studies chairpersons or teachers who might be interested.**

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

(From time to time, resources that are brought to our attention through ASCA listservs or other means that could be used as part of a guidance program will be listed here. The readers are encouraged to investigate the resources and decide whether or not they are appropriate for their programs. Listing of these resources does not constitute endorsement by either our section or DESE.)

{CURRICULUM}

A. CURRICULUM NOW AVAILABLE!!!

As previously announced, the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program Curriculum lessons that reflect the newly revised Standards and Grade Level Expectations are now available on the Missouri Center for Career Education (MCCE) website at <http://missouricareereducation.org/curr/cmd/guidanceplacementG/lessons/index.php>

B. NEW MODULES FOR A CAREER EXPLORATION CURRICULUM MODEL WHICH USES AND INTRODUCES CAREER CLUSTERS AVAILABLE

If you are interested in implementing career exploration curriculum based on the Career Clusters framework, you might consider attending or sending a staff member to attend a workshop series this spring. The workshops will introduce three new modules for a career exploration curriculum model which uses and introduces Career Clusters.

The curriculum combines introductory materials and career searches with career-specific hands-on activities. These materials have been modeled and used by a wide variety of teachers across Missouri over the past year including technology education, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The workshop series consists of two day-long Saturday sessions with lunch provided. All workshops are free to registered participants, but participants are responsible for their own travel expenses. The first workshop series begins on January 20, so register soon.

For more information or to register, visit: <http://missouricareereducation.org/pd/exploring2.html>

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Title IX Coordinator, 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number 573-751-4581.

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{INDIVIDUAL PLANNING}

A REVISED GRADUATION HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Note the information about the Graduation Handbook in Announcements.

B. NEW CERTIFICATE FOR MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

As a result of legislation passed in the last session, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is developing guidelines for a “workforce readiness certificate” that enables high schools to endorse their graduates for the workplace. The endorsement includes academic components, work readiness components, assessments and an identifiable guarantee to potential employers that the individual is “ready to work.” The academic components have been cross referenced with the Show-Me Standards and the Work Readiness Components have been linked to the Career Development Standards and grade level expectations within the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program.

The legislation indicated that students will be given the option to apply for the certificate and it is not a requirement for graduation. Schools will be able to initiate the endorsement process at the start of the 07-08 school year.

The department has established an advisory committee, represented by employers, workforce service providers, principals, counselors and students. The group is meeting throughout the year to develop components of the program and guidelines for student success. Additional information will be made available through the Digest as it becomes available.

C. FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION AND HELP AVAILABLE FOR PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS

As of January 1, the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2007-08 school year is available FOR COMPLETION online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

Schools deadlines will differ from the national deadline for filing the FAFSA so be sure to remind students check with their school’s financial aid office for the 07-08 deadline(s). The FAFSA determines if students are eligible to receive grants and scholarships from the government.

Submitting the FAFSA early can determine which college a student might choose by the amount of aid given by a school. One financial aid officer recommends, “The earlier a student applies, the less likely that they will lose out on sources of aid within application deadlines. “ By submitting early, students will typically receive information around April about the types and amounts of financial aid awarded.

Also keep in mind that financial aid professionals will be available at locations around the state to help students complete the FAFSA during College Goal Sunday on February 11, 2007. By attending, students are eligible to win a \$250 scholarship. There are over 29 locations to assist students and their parents with the FAFSA in over 20 cities across Missouri. For more information and locations, go to: <http://www.collegegoalmissouri.com/>

{RESPONSIVE SERVICES}

The Arthur Center and Audrain Medical Center will host a two-day **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training** workshop in Mexico, Missouri on March 6 and 7, 2007.

ASIST provides practical training for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Participants often include:

People concerned about family, friends
Natural helpers and advisors
Emergency service workers
Counselors, teachers and ministers

Mental health practitioners
Workers in health, welfare or justice
Community volunteers

Register soon! Seating is limited and due to the unusually low registration fee (a \$199 value for **only \$49**) the class is expected to fill up quickly. Registration includes: the two-day workshop, a course workbook, the *Suicide Intervention Handbook*, an intervention pocket card and lunch for both days.

For questions or further information, contact Ed Riedel at: 573-582-1234 or eriedel@arthurcenter.com

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{SYSTEM SUPPORT

A. SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH PARENTS

New Certificate for the Adult Workforce

Missouri Career Readiness Certificate (MoCRC) is another endorsement process being offered to adults in several of Missouri's workforce regions. The program assesses an adult's skill level by using three of the eight ACT WorkKeys Assessments; Applied Math, Reading for Information and Locating Information. The purpose of the program is to ensure that Missouri workers have real workplace skills and are able to compete in today's rapidly changing labor market. The skill levels have been profiled against thousands of available jobs and are consistently identified by employers nationwide as essential for prospective employees and those considering advancement. The relationship between the high school endorsement and the adult endorsement will be a topic for future discussion between the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Education. For more information regarding the MoCRC please contact Clinton Flowers at (573) 526-8261 or follow the link below:

<http://ded.mo.gov/WFD/Job%20Seeker%20Services/Career%20Readiness%20Certificate.aspx>.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS OF NOTE:

A. MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MSCA) SPRING CONFERENCE will be held on **Friday March 2, 2007 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City**. Trish Madsen of Kansas City will be introducing "STEP-UP" a female bullying prevention program. Much of what Ms. Madsen will address can also be utilized in situations with boys. A registration form is available by going to <http://schoolweb.missouri.edu/msca/> and clicking on the January Newsletter link.

B. PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE will be held **March 4-6, 2007 at Tan Tar A**. Complete conference details are available at: <http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/leadership/>

C. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (ASCA) CONFERENCE will be **June 23-26, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center**. For more information, go to: <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?pl=325&sl=129&contentid=182>

D. MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION (MCEC) CONFERENCE will be **July 11-13, 2007 with a pre-conference July 10-11 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City**. For more information and a registration form, go to: <http://www.militarychild.org/KansasCity.asp>

E. ANNUAL CHARACTER EDUCATION CONFERENCE will be held **July 19-20, 2007, in St. Louis**. Information is available at <http://www.characterplus.org/>

F. 2007 MISSOURI ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS will be held **July 23-July 26, 2007 in Springfield**. Watch for further information.